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American Educational Monthly.—*Devoted to Popular Instruction and Literature.* June, 1867. J. W. Schermerhorn & Co., New York. $1,50 per annum.

This lively and independent monthly does good service in the cause of education. Every number contains an article on Natural History, besides a special department containing gleanings in Science and the Arts. The present number contains valuable hints on the importance of the study of Natural History in Schools.

# NATURAL HISTORY MISCELLANY.

## BOTANY.

Rottenness of Fruits.—The experiments of M. Devaine, recorded in the "Comptes Rendus," Aug. 20, 1866, prove that the rottenness of fruits is the result of the attacks of fungi, the different varieties in the form of the decay being produced by generic differences in the attacking fungi by the spores of which the fruit has been inoculated. Thus the rottenness determined by a *Mucor* or a *Penicillium* differs in density and color as well as in rapidity of development, and all the other Mucedineæ produce a rottenness so characteristic, that the name of the fungus which produced the mischief may be at once determined; for example, a *Helminthosporium* which attacks the carrot, produces a black putridity; a *Selenosporium?* Corda, which M. Devaine observed upon the cucumber, and which he propagated on this fruit, gives a beautiful red color to the flesh of the cucumber, whilst the rottenness of the same fruit, resulting from the invasion of a Mucor or a Penicillium, has no particular coloration.—*Quarterly Journal of Science.*

## ZOÖLOGY.

The Red-legged Grasshopper.—This terrible pest has been for several years immensely destructive in the far West, especially in Kansas, as we learn from a correspondent, who states that it "covered the country last August and September, destroying all the late crops, fall wheat, etc., and deposited its eggs all over the country. Now the farmers are in a quandary, and some are in despair, not sowing or planting, believing that it would be labor spent in vain, while others run the risk." It used to swarm at certain times in the Eastern States. Harris enumerates its visitations in New England in the last century, when it devoured every green thing, so that "days of